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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON.

SESSION 1857-8.

First Meeting, Monday, November 9th, 1857.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATION.—*Lieutenant-Colonel J. Temple West was officially admitted upon his election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Lieut. P. Blakiston, R.N. ; Lieut. B. Brine, R.E. ; Colonel H. Cartwright, Grenadier Guards ; Lieut. A. H. Gilmore, R.N. ; J. R. Elsey, M.R.C.S., late Surgeon of the North Australian Expedition ; Frederick S. and William H. Homfray, and Edwin Williams, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—The accessions to the Library and Map-Rooms, since the last meeting, were numerous and important, among which were Davis's China; Jervis's Geological Map of the Crimea; maps published by the Topographical and Statistical Dépôt of the War Department; Observations, Magnetical and Meteorological, made at the Observatory at Toronto; Maps of Bavaria, by the Bavarian Government; Plans of Delhi, by the East India Company and Colonel James, R.E., F.R.G.S.; French Charts, published by the Dépôt de la Marine; the Admiralty Charts and Sailing Directions; Map of the North-West part of Canada; Portrait of Rear-Admiral Sir T. Beaufort; Astronomical Observations made at the Radcliffe Observatory; the Transactions of the Hakluyt Society; Franklin Institute of Pennsylvania; the Academies of Sciences of Paris, Vienna, Madrid, and Stockholm; the German Oriental Society; Darmstadt Geographical Society; Geological Society of Dublin; Society of Antiquaries; the Royal, the Agricultural, the Astronomical, the Statistical, and the Geological Societies; the Asiatic Societies of London, Paris, and Bengal; the Madras Literary Society, &c.; the Minutes of the Board of Education; Coello's Maps of Spain, &c. &c.

The PRESIDENT said: Before we proceed to the regular business of the evening, I beg to congratulate you, gentlemen, on assembling at last in a place capable of receiving our members, who are now much too numerous to be

accommodated in our own meeting-room. The Senate of the University of London and the Royal Society have had the courtesy to permit us to meet here for the present Session, and I am glad to see that you are so conveniently seated. We have, therefore, to return our grateful thanks to those two bodies for having allowed the Royal Geographical Society to assemble in this fine building, now devoted to the advancement of science and letters.

But, while we assemble here, I would beg to remind you that the real business of the Society is carried on at our premises in Whitehall-Place, and, I hope, in a very effective manner. We have established there a Map-Office, which is found to be really useful to the nation. It is especially useful, I know, to Her Majesty's Government and to all the public offices. We have there a collection of maps of every portion of the world—maps difficult to be found elsewhere, and certainly such a collection as cannot be matched in any public institution in this metropolis; and during the recess we have rearranged our Library, so as to render it really useful. I need not tell you that we are in a very flourishing condition, after reading out the long list of names of new candidates; and I am proud to be the President of a Society that has been successful beyond all that its warmest friends could have anticipated.

Various papers of great interest have come in during the recess, upon Africa, Australia, and other distant regions, of which I will not now attempt to speak, but I feel certain that they will sustain the credit of the Society.

There is one painful subject, and only one, to which I must allude, with reference to our African explorations. I am sorry to say that the slight hopes I entertained of the life of poor Vogel, the adventurous young astronomer, who was making his observations with such fidelity in the interior of Africa, have been almost dispelled. With regard to Corporal Maguire, of the Royal Engineers, the news we have received through the Foreign Office is unfortunately but too authentic, and we learn that the poor fellow has fallen a victim to assassins. We have, however, the satisfaction of knowing that he died like a true British soldier, and that before he fell, he slew two out of the numerous assassins who beset him.

Respecting the different explorations now in progress, you will perhaps expect me, at the opening of the session, to make some allusion to the expedition in search of the lost Franklin Expedition. I closed my Anniversary Address with some observations upon that subject, which has long touched my heart so deeply. I have, as you know, for years entertained the hope that some more vestiges might be discovered of the relics of my illustrious friend. I am, therefore, rejoiced to announce that the expedition which was got up with so much alacrity, so much zeal, and so much devotion by Lady Franklin, is prospering to an extent which her best friends could wish. The accounts from Captain M'Clintock are exceedingly satisfactory, as conveyed in letters to Captain Collinson and Lady Franklin, in addition to the letter to Mr. Barrow, which has been published in the *Times* and other papers. I will not now read the letters in my hand, as they contain little beyond the chief features that have already appeared in print. It is well, however, to dwell upon the fact that our distinguished friend Captain M'Clintock has been furnished with all the provisions, sufficient coal, as well as with the requisite number of Esquimaux and dogs, that he sought for upon the coast, and that he has started with good hopes and bright prospects, and with perfect confidence on his part that he will discover some relics of the ill-fated expedition. It is cheering to dwell upon this feature of the expedition, and to remind you that the gallant commander is accompanied by that noble-spirited Captain Young, of the merchant-service, who, having contributed 500*l.* and his own services, writes, in a letter to Captain Collinson, "I will receive no pay if it is to come from Lady Franklin's resources; I will only receive it if Her Majesty's Government recognise our expedition."

Lastly, I come to the great geographical publication of the year. I hold in my hand the book which recounts the journeys and researches of my eminent friend Dr. Livingstone in Africa. This production marks an epoch in geographical science. Whether we look to the candour and honesty of the man, to his clear-sightedness as a traveller, to the firmness of purpose with which he executed those high resolves upon which he was bent, we cannot but be proud, as Englishmen, that he should have been carried through such difficulties as he encountered, and have produced such a work as this. Though the modest traveller has stated in his preface that he would rather travel over Africa again than write a book, his story is here put forth in so artless, so clear, and yet so telling a manner, that I venture to say Dr. Livingstone's style will be admired by many of those who might be supposed to become his critics. It is really refreshing to turn to these pages, and see how a traveller, who is bent only upon speaking the plain truth to Englishmen, wins your hearts, and how he so carries you with him as to give you a full conception of the African character. In congratulating you and all my countrymen upon the production of this remarkable work, let me congratulate Mr. Murray in particular in having had the good fortune to meet with such an author as Dr. Livingstone.

The PRESIDENT then took the Diploma of Corresponding Member, which he had signed, and, addressing Dr. Livingstone, said: In the presence of this company of your associates, I beg to present to you this Diploma of the Royal Geographical Society. I hope you will accept it as a testimony of our unfeigned and sincere admiration of your conduct, and of the respect which, as geographers, we shall ever entertain towards you for having realised that which no Englishman has ever accomplished—the traverse of the great continent of South Africa.

The Diploma was then presented to Dr. Livingstone, amid the acclamations of the members.

DR. LIVINGSTONE: Really, Sir, I am in want of words to express my gratitude and thankfulness for the very kind manner in which you have referred to my labours. I beg to return my heartfelt thanks to you, as the President of the Society, for the remarks you have made, and to the Fellows for the kind manner in which they have received those remarks.

The Papers read were:—

1. *Additional Notes on the North Australian Expedition under Mr. A. C. Gregory.* By MR. THOMAS BAINES, F.R.G.S., Artist to the Expedition.

In the beginning of March 1855, through the recommendation of the Council of this Society, I was appointed Artist and Storekeeper to the North Australian Expedition, and joined Mr. Gregory, the commander, in Sydney on the 21st of May. As his reports have been read at previous meetings, it will only be necessary for me to notice briefly the leading points in the operations of the expedition up to the time that Mr. Gregory sent me with a detachment of the expedition in the Tom Tough schooner to procure fresh supplies from Timor.

The expedition consisted of a total of 18 persons and 50 horses, and on the 12th of August we sailed from Moreton Bay, taking the inner passage to Torres Strait. During this part of our voyage we